

Dear Mr. Butler,

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to request that your office (and the proper local law enforcement agency, as you deem appropriate) investigate and file suitable criminal charges against Jones Butchering and Meat Processing, LLC, and the worker(s) responsible for repeatedly shooting animals in the head on June 18 and July 9 at its slaughterhouse located at 7965 Potters Rd. outside of Saranac. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) documented the incidents in the attached reports, which state the following:

- **July 9, 2019:** "[E]stablishment employees attempted to stun an approximately 800 lb. sow using a hand-held captive bolt gun while she was confined in the knock box. After the first stunning attempt, the animal sat down on her back legs and was turning her head looking around the room. The captive bolt gun was reloaded, and a second establishment employee attempted to stun the sow. The animal remained conscious after this stunning attempt, seated and looking around the room with the captive bolt gun now stuck in her forehead. The employee tugged twice on the captive bolt gun in an effort to dislodge it from the sow's forehead. When that failed to work, the CSI [Consumer Safety Inspector] [alerted] [the general manager] of the incident. [The general manager] retrieved a 450 Bushmaster rifle from the office and then attempted a third stun, which was successful at rendering the animal insensible."^[1]
- **June 18, 2019:** "A small steer was confined within the knock box. The knock box is equipped with a head restraint system, however, the steer was able to turn around within the knock box and face the rear entry. The employee elected to attempt to stun the animal in that position from above with a handheld captive bolt device. The device was discharged into the head of the animal and the animal dropped to the floor of the knock box. The employee opened the side door to the kill floor and the animal rolled out of the knock box. The animal was then observed to quickly regain consciousness and proceed to run onto the kill floor. A firearm was retrieved but due to the nature of the excited animal, a shot could not be taken. The animal returned to the barn and was driven back into the knock box where it was effectively stunned with the second attempt."^[2]

This conduct appears to violate M.C.L.A. 750.50b. Importantly, FSIS action does not preempt criminal liability under state law for slaughterhouse workers who perpetrate acts of cruelty to animals.^[3]